

L.T. OLDS - TUESDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 1963

Good Evening Everybody:

Today they've been tearing down pictures in Bagdad - - pictures of the ex-strongman of Iraq. Kassem had his face all over Bagdad - during his four years in power. And now the men who overthrew him are busy getting rid of everything to remind anyone of the so called mad dictator.

The first Western newsmen into Bagdad report the ancient city is quiet. The new strongman, Abdul Salam Aref, in complete control. Troops and tanks patrolling the streets. The Iraqi people, evidently satisfied and not surprised with the change. Only the Reds in opposition - - and they seem to have lost out completely.

The most eloquent witness to the violence of recent events, the Air Ministry Building, where Kassem held out. It's in ruins. Flattened.

CUBA

It's difficult to check the latest reports from Cuba - because the Russians have clamped tight security over their bases on the island. Nevertheless, Western diplomats in Havana say that Russian soldiers have been disappearing from their outfits. Deserters, heading into the mountains where the anti-Castro guerrillas are operating. Russians who want freedom.

We also hear of increasing friction between the Cuban army and the Soviet Army. The Cubans, resentful because they have to stay clear of the Russian bases. Most resentful about this - Castro. The former West German Ambassador to Havana, says Castro is furious because the Russians left him in the lurch."

Then there is the so-called "rebellion in the Cuban diplomatic corps". Seven of Castro's diplomats defecting abroad in protest over the Soviet occupation of Cuba.

DISARMAMENT

American Delegate Foster today told the Geneva disarmament conference that Kennedy and Khrushchev have both shown a realistic understanding of nuclear war. And that the American President feels this is the time for agreement to end atomic explosions.

Let's fly out to the Himalayas, once more, for my final tape from there.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS - No. 3

Hello - have you heard about the American invasion of the Himalayas? Peaceful invasion. Some are here already; others on their way; and when they all arrive this week at Boris Lissonovich's Royal Hotel in Kathmandu, that former Nepalese palace will be entertaining the largest number of American mountaineers ever to converge on Nepal.

This is the expedition headed by veteran mountain climber-cameraman, Norman Dyrenfurth of Los Angeles. And I believe it's the second largest of all Himalayas expeditions, second only to the Italian expedition that finally conquered K-2 in the western Himalayas a few years ago. In a way this will be even more ambitious, because the Americans are hoping to conquer three of the giants of the Himalayas, Mount Everest, and two nearby peaks.

When Hillary and Tensing reached the summit of Everest in May Nineteen Fifty-three, the Sherpas, the rugged mountain people who have played an important part in so many Himalayan expeditions, were worried.

They assumed that after the conquest of the world's highest mountain, westerners would stop coming to the Himalayas. With the highest mountain on earth scaled why would anyone bother about doing any more climbing.

But how wrong they were! The thrilling adventure of Hillary and Tensing and their companions caused mountaineers all over the world to want to rush out here to the Himalayas and tackle one of these formidable mountains. And no matter how many lose their lives, they keep on coming.

In one season since the conquest of Everest thirteen expeditions invaded the Himalayas. Argentinians tried to climb Dhaulagiri in Western Nepal, twenty six thousand eight hundred feet. At twenty-five thousand they were driven down and their leader died on the return trip. The Italians reached the summit of K-2, one man lost. An Austrian expedition failed to reach the summit of Saipal. They lost a man. Another Italian expedition attempted to scale two peaks, Api and Nampa. One drowned, two

frozen. An American expedition from the University of California failed in an assault on Makalu.

And then there was the strange story of the Japanese attempt to conquer twenty six thousand five hundred foot Manaslu. They had tried and failed twice before. When they returned with a larger expedition, before they could get to the foot of the mountain the Hill people stopped them, saying they could go no further, that they had offended the Gods of Manaslu, and had caused an avalanche that had crashed down on a Buddhist nunnery, killing four of their people. Whereupon the Japanese climbers turned to another famous Himalayan monarch, Ganesh; and failed.

You have heard of Nanga Parbat, in the western Himalayas, the Killer mountain? This one alone has taken a toll of thirty five mountaineers.

Now, a most ambitious American expedition is hoping to reach the summit of Everest and two of

its neighbours. This is sure to be one of the top high adventure stories of the year, and after another six or seven weeks you will be sharing the thrills with the climbers. And to make sure the accounts are well written they have taken along James Ramsey Ulmann, famed for his White Tower and other books on mountaineering. Here's hoping it will not be another tale of Himalayan tragedy.

LINCOLN

As always today much political oratory was heard in the land. Republicans going back to that greatest of all Republicans, and urging Lincolnian principles to meet current problems. How about a speech from you, Dick.

RADIOACTIVITY

Have you heard about the "hot snow" in Japan? It's cooling off - according to the Tokyo Bureau of Atomic Energy. "Hot snow" - meaning the radioactive precipitation that fell on Japan last month. Enormous snowflakes that made the Geiger Counters jump. Giving off almost three thousand millicuries of radiation - instead of the usual seven hundred. All because of those atomic explosions over Soviet Siberia.

A dangerous problem that radioactive blanket that descended on Japan. Now the scientists find a sharp decrease in radiation. Japan's "hot snow" - growing cold.